

DANIEL DRAKE ON  
GEOGRAPHIC VARIATIONS OF DISEASE

THAT many physicians overrate the degree of variation from a common standard which the diseases of different countries present, I am quite convinced; but feel equally assured, that if the maladies of each country were studied and described, without a reference to those of any other, it would be found, if the state of medical science were equal to them, that the works thus produced would not be commutable, but that each would be better adapted, as a book of etiology, diagnosis, and practice, to the profession and people among which it was written, than to any other. *How much* better, would depend on the various identities and discrepancies which might exist between the countries thus compared. If their geological, hydrographical, topographical, climatic, social, and physiological conditions were nearly the same, of course their medical histories would be much alike; but if they differed widely in one or several of these conditions, a corresponding diversity would appear in the respective histories of all the diseases which admit of modification from causes referable to those heads.

DANIEL DRAKE: *A Systematic Treatise . . .  
On the Principal Diseases of the Interior  
Valley of North America*. Cincinnati,  
Smith, 1850, page 2.